



MANAGED BY  Duke Translational Medicine Institute

SEVERE ACNE STUDY NOW UNDERWAY AT THE MURDOCK STUDY!

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Kannapolis, North Carolina: Another study under the umbrella of the MURDOCK Study at the Duke Translational Medicine Institute is now enrolling patients who have been diagnosed with severe acne vulgaris (“severe acne”) as young as 12 years old and who have been treated with oral isotretinoin, such as Accutane®, Amnesteem®, Claravis®, and/or Sotret®. Directed by Dr. Thomas Urban of the Duke Center for Human Genome Variation, Dr. Diana McShane of the Duke Department of Dermatology and in partnership with several local dermatologists, the purpose of this project is to identify genetic factors predisposing patients to severe acne and then explore if such factors can predict how they will respond to treatment. To do so, they will recruit 250 past or present severe acne patients who will receive a \$25 gift card to donate about an hour of their time, as well as small samples of blood and urine. Severe acne affects up to 50 million individuals in the United States and afflicts as many as 85% of teenagers. Study participants will help efforts to better understand and treat this disease.

Ms. Jill Kichefski (pictured right) of Charlotte, North Carolina was the first person to enroll in the severe acne study on September 24, 2011; she chose to volunteer for the severe acne project because she believes that ““Duke Medicine is renowned for [its] contributions in research and disease prevention. Taking Accutane® as a teenager qualified me to enroll and in just one short visit, I was able to participate in the acne research study that may help future patients.” She consented to participate in the MURDOCK Study, donated her samples, completed the MURDOCK Study questionnaire as well as an acne questionnaire related to her acne diagnosis and treatments. The entire process only took about one hour. Ms. Kichefski noted, “Enrolling was really easy!” In return for joining, Ms. Kichefski received a \$25 gift card for her time.



Locally, the physicians of the Dermatology Group of the Carolinas (Concord, North Carolina) have been instrumental in formalizing their practice's partnership with the MURDOCK Study to become an enrollment site. Dr. Sarah H. Cash (pictured left), a board certified dermatologist and member of this practice, is very excited about this research opportunity for her acne patients: “The Dermatology Group of the Carolinas is excited to partner with the MURDOCK Study of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute. This research could lead to a better understanding of the genetics of acne and response to treatment.”

Principal Investigator, Dr. Urban hopes that “if we can identify genetic factors that influence response to treatment, we’ll not only be able to improve how we use current medications, but may also discover new and safer ways of treating severe acne.”